

**Communicable Disease Epidemiology
and Immunization Section**

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**Health Advisory: Three King County Residents Connected to International Cruise Ship in
Public Health Monitoring for Hantavirus, May 12, 2026**

Current Situation

- Public Health – Seattle & King County was notified by Washington State Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that three King County residents were potentially exposed to the Andes virus, a type of hantavirus, linked to the *MV Hondius* cruise ship.
- Two King County residents were sitting on an airplane near an ill cruise ship passenger who was removed from the aircraft before takeoff and later tested positive. Both residents have returned to King County. They are both asymptomatic and are monitoring symptoms at home in coordination with Public Health.
- Public Health is also aware of a third King County resident who was a passenger on the *MV Hondius* cruise ship. This resident is currently asymptomatic and is being monitored for symptoms along with other American passengers at the national quarantine center at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.
- Currently, no one in King County has symptoms of hantavirus and there are no cases of the virus in King County. The risk to the public remains very low.

Actions Requested

Identify: Screen patients with flu-like symptoms for travel within 42 days before symptom onset and be alert for possibility of returning travelers with exposures. Public Health is working with DOH and CDC to identify anyone potentially exposed to the hantavirus cluster linked to the cruise ship in order to monitor them and coordinate healthcare as needed.

- Include hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS) in the differential diagnosis for an ill person who has [compatible symptoms](#) AND who has reported epidemiological risk factors, including **at least one** of the following, within the 42 days before symptoms onset:
 - Had direct physical contact, or spent time in close or enclosed spaces, with a symptomatic person with confirmed or suspected Andes virus infection or with any objects contaminated by their body fluids.
 - Had exposure to an infected person's saliva, respiratory secretions, or other body fluids (e.g., kissing, sharing utensils, handling contaminated bedding).
 - Experienced a breach in infection prevention and control precautions that resulted in potential contact with body fluids of a patient with suspected or confirmed Andes virus infection.

- Consider and perform diagnostic testing for more common illnesses as well, such as [COVID-19](#), [influenza](#), and other common causes of gastrointestinal and febrile illnesses in an acutely ill patient with epidemiological risk factors and compatible symptoms.

Manage: Be prepared to follow CDC's guidance for Andes virus under [Appendix A: Type and Duration of Precautions Recommended for Selected Infections and Conditions](#).

- In healthcare settings, for patients with suspected or confirmed Andes virus infection, CDC recommends patient placement in an airborne infection isolation room and the use of a gown, gloves, eye protection, and an N95 or higher-level respirator when entering the patient's room.
- Early supportive care is critical even before the diagnosis is confirmed. Patients with suspected hantavirus pulmonary syndrome can deteriorate rapidly, and delayed care reduces the chance of survival. In severe cases, extra-corporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) can significantly improve survival (up to ~80%) if started early.

Test: Call Public Health at 206-296-4774 if hantavirus is suspected to approve and coordinate testing at CDC.

Notify: Immediately report suspected cases of hantavirus to Public Health at 206-296-4774.

For More Information

See the [CDC HAN](#) for more details about the situational background.

General Resources

- [About Hantavirus | CDC](#)
- [About Andes Virus | CDC](#)
- [Reported Cases of Hantavirus Disease | CDC](#)
- [Hantavirus Prevention | CDC](#)
- [King County Hantavirus Media Release, May 12, 2026](#)

Clinician Resources

- [Clinical Overview of Hantavirus | CDC](#)
- [Clinician Brief: Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome \(HPS\) | CDC](#)
- [Hantavirus Disease Trainings for Healthcare Providers | CDC](#)
- [Appendix A: Type and Duration of Precautions Recommended for Selected Infections and Conditions | Infection Control | CDC](#)